

Fax Memo

Maumus F. Claverie, Jr.

830 Union St., 3rd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-524-5418
FAX 524-1066

Date: May 28, 2002

Total Pages: 2

**To: Chris Rogers, Chief
NMFS/HMS**

FAX: 1-301-713-1917

Re: Atlantic HMS Recreational Permit, etc.

Dear Chris:

This is in response to **your** request for comments regarding C/H operations, HMS recreational permit requirements and recreational **BFT** retention limits *in the* Gulf.

C/H Operations - Redefining. The Gulf Council **is** working on this, **and has** learned of the various **and** confusing definitions being **used** in various agencies **and arms of agencies** regarding charter, **headboat, partyboat**, guideboat and other **categories**. The Council has heard some testimony **regarding** this situation. **The** USCG **is also** involved.

Basically there seem to **be two** approaches = arbitrary and operational. These are modified by custom and purpose. **The NMFS** definitions seem **to** be arbitrary, **and some driven by purpose** or **by** existing arbitrary definitions.

The Council **hopes** to **make** sense out of **all** of this in time, and after much **study** and public input. " **MOTIONS OF THE MAY 15-16, 2002 COUNCIL MEETING**

Data Collection Motions

Motion: that **at the next Data Collection Committee meeting, the committee address the issue of definitions** in the for-hire fleet, **and have staff develop information, including Coast Guard requirements, needed for criteria definitions** for charterboat, headboat, and guideboat.

Motion carried with no objection.

Since this **is** on the Council agenda, and **since** the Gulf **vessels** you **will** be **dealing** with almost all **fish** non-HMS **as well as** having **permits** for HMS species in the Gulf, please coordinate any acts **by** your office with the Council.

HMS Recreational Permit. Again, although **the HMS** species **are** within your

purview, the Gulf **EEZ** is within the Gulf Council jurisdiction. Therefore, coordinate with the Gulf Council on this.

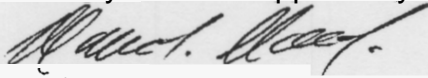
The idea of a federal recreational fishing permit **has** been discussed off **and** on since probably the late '70s or early '80s. It has not happened for many reasons. Caution that you may be treading on thin ice here. Remember the federal recreational vessel stamp previously implemented? The outcry was so furious the stamp **was phased** out. **You** have all the same elements here. The fast track you **are** on for this **one** makes the ice even thinner.

You have many **ways** to obtain the information **you** want without permits. If you believe **you** can convince the recreational fishers they should **serve** our government instead of the other **way** around, then more power to you. The better part of discretion would **be** to **look** to other methods.

During the testimony concerning permits for Gulf shrimpers, **we** learned many would get permits **as a** hedge against limiting the number of participants in the future, but **would** not be participating in the fishery. This would bias any **surveys** based on the universe of permits towards **less** participation than actual.

Recreational BFT Retention Limits in the Gulf. **In** the past, we caught small BFT in **the** Gulf. These **are** hard to distinguish from other species. Therefore, please fully educate the recreational Gulf fishery as to identification of small **fish**, or take **some** other steps to avoid making accidental mis-identification of **small** fish **a** crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



MFCJr/me